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**1981/06/18**

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SUBJECT= MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE -- PRESIDENT'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE

REFERENCE= 81 TAIPEI 3139

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TAGS= PINT, OVIP, TW, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M JR)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/FFC/CDR	JRR	Date: 12/5/96
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ACTION AIT-02

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 EA-10 ICA-11  
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FM AIT TAIPEI  
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, TW  
SUBJECT: MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE  
- PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TAIPEI 3139

1. ON JUNE 17, MOFA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE GIVING "QUESTIONS  
AND ANSWERS" ON SECRETARY HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARMS SALES  
TO THE PRC AND ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMENTS ON TAIWAN AT  
HIS WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE AS EXPECTED (REFTEL). THE  
TEXT OF THE MOFA RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY ANSWERED  
TWO QUESTIONS RAISED BY REPORTERS AS FOLLOWS:

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1. QUESTION:

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SAID

ABOUT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON  
JUNE 16 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

– ANSWER:

WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN REITERATED  
HIS FIRM INTENTION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS  
ACT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

2. QUESTION:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE  
ALEXANDER HAIG SAID TUESDAY NIGHT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE  
IN PEIPING THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD LOOSEN UP  
THE RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES TO THE COMMUNIST CHINA, WILL  
YOU MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

– ANSWER:

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THIS UNFORTUNATE DECISION,  
BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEACE AND  
STABILITY OF THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. WE  
SEE NO BENEFIT BUT HARM OUT OF THIS TO BOTH THE  
UNITED STATES AND OTHER FREE NATIONS IN THIS REGION.  
END TEXT.

THE SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS WERE CARRIED BY ALL CHINESE AND  
ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS.

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2. WHILE THE TONE OF THE ANSWERS IS STILL CALM, THE  
HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR INDICATES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN,  
WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE REMARKS OF THE BETTER  
INFORMED PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN. IN ADDITION  
TO THE CAUTIOUS MOFA ANSWER CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S  
SUPPORT OF THE TRA, THERE IS A MORE UPBEAT REACTION FROM  
GIO DIRECTOR JAMES SOONG, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED  
TO BE MORE REASSURING TO THE LOCAL POPULATION. THOMAS

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